28. A method of cutting a fiber-cement workpiece, comprising:

pressing a first guide surface of a first guide member and a second guide surface of a second guide member against a surface of the workpiece, the first guide member having a first interior surface and the second guide member having a second interior surface spaced apart from the first interior surface by a gap;

reciprocating a cutting blade between the first and second guide members and along a path transverse to the surface of the workpiece, the cutting blade having a first side spaced apart from the first interior surface by a first side spacing and the cutting blade having a second side spaced apart from the second interior surface by a second side spacing, wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are approximately 0.040 to 0.055 inch; and

moving the cutting blade along a cutting path through the fiber-cement workpiece.

29. A method of cutting a fiber-cement workpiece, comprising:

pressing a first guide surface of a first guide member and a second guide surface of a second guide member against a surface of the workpiece, the first guide member having a first interior surface and the second guide member having a second interior surface spaced apart from the first interior surface by a gap;

reciprocating a cutting blade between the first and second guide members and along a path transverse to the surface of the workpiece, the cutting blade having a first side spaced apart from the first interior surface by a first side spacing and the cutting blade having a second side spaced apart from the second interior surface by a second side spacing, wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are approximately 13% to 22% of a thickness of the fiber-cement workpiece; and

moving the cutting blade along a cutting path through the fiber-cement workpiece.

30. A method of cutting a fiber-cement workpiece, comprising:

pressing a first guide surface of a first guide member and a second guide surface of a second guide member against a surface of the workpiece, the first guide member having a first interior surface and the second guide member having a second interior surface spaced apart from the first interior surface by a gap distance;

reciprocating a cutting blade between the first and second guide members and along a path transverse to the surface of the workpiece, the cutting blade having a first side spaced apart from the first interior surface by a first side spacing and the cutting blade having a second side spaced apart from the second interior surface by a second side spacing, wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are approximately 16% to 22% of the gap distance; and

moving the cutting blade along a cutting path through the fiber-cement workpiece.

31. A fiber-cement cutting tool, comprising:

a hand-held drive unit comprising a housing, a motor coupled to the housing, a switch operatively coupled to the motor to selectively activate the motor, and a drive assembly operatively coupled to the motor;

a guide assembly comprising first and second guide members attached to the drive unit, the first guide member having a first guide surface and a first interior surface, and the second guide member having a second guide surface and a second interior surface, wherein the first and second guide surfaces define a guide plane, and wherein the first interior surface is juxtaposed to the second interior surface across a gap; and

a cutting blade between the first and second guide members and coupled to the drive assembly to reciprocate between the first and second guide members along a path transverse to the guide plane, the cutting blade having a first side spaced apart from the first interior surface of the first guide member by a first side spacing and the cutting blade having a second side spaced apart from the second interior surface of the second guide member by a second side spacing, wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are from

0.040 to 0.055 inch to inhibit premature wear of the motor or the drive assembly and to provide even edge cuts along a fiber-cement workpiece cut by the cutting blade.

32. The cutting tool of claim 31 wherein the blade has a width of 0.25 inch.

33. The cutting tool of claim 31 wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are approximately 0.0425 to 0.045 inch.

34. A fiber-cement cutting tool, comprising:

a hand-held drive unit comprising a housing, a motor coupled to the housing, a switch operatively coupled to the motor to selectively activate the motor, and a drive assembly operatively coupled to the motor;

a guide assembly comprising first and second guide members attached to the drive unit, the first guide member having a first guide surface and a first interior surface, and the second guide member having a second guide surface and a second interior surface, wherein the first and second guide surfaces define a guide plane, and wherein the first interior surface is juxtaposed to the second interior surface across a gap; and

a cutting blade between the first and second guide members and coupled to the drive assembly to reciprocate between the first and second guide members along a path transverse to the guide plane, the cutting blade having a first side spaced apart from the first interior surface of the first guide member by a first side spacing and the cutting blade having a second side spaced apart from the second interior surface of the second guide member by a second side spacing, wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are from 13% to 22% of a thickness of a fiber-cement workpiece to be cut with the blade to inhibit premature wear of the motor or the drive assembly and to provide even edge cuts along the fiber-cement workpiece.

35. The cutting tool of claim 34 wherein the blade has a width of 0.25 inch.

36. The cutting tool of claim 34 wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are approximately 0.040 to 0.055 inch.

13
37. A fiber-cement cutting tool, comprising:

a hand-held drive unit comprising a housing, a motor coupled to the housing, a switch operatively coupled to the motor to selectively activate the motor, and a drive assembly operatively coupled to the motor;

a guide assembly comprising first and second guide members attached to the drive unit, the first guide member having a first guide surface and a first interior surface, and the second guide member having a second guide surface and a second interior surface, wherein the first and second guide surfaces define a guide plane, and wherein the first interior surface is spaced apart from the second interior surface by a gap distance; and

a cutting blade between the first and second guide members and coupled to the drive assembly to reciprocate between the first and second guide members along a path transverse to the guide plane, the cutting blade having a first side spaced apart from the first interior surface of the first guide member by a first side spacing and the cutting blade having a second side spaced apart from the second interior surface of the second guide member by a second side spacing, wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are from 16% to 22% of the gap distance to inhibit premature wear of the motor or the drive assembly and to provide even edge cuts along a fiber-cement workpiece cut by the cutting blade.

14 13
38. The cutting tool of claim 37 wherein the blade has a width of 0.25 inch.

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39. The cutting tool of claim 37 wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are approximately 0.0425 to 0.045 inch.

16
40. A fiber-cement cutting tool, comprising:

a hand-held drive unit comprising a housing, a motor coupled to the housing, a switch operatively coupled to the motor to selectively activate the motor, and a drive assembly operatively coupled to the motor;

a guide assembly comprising first and second guide members attached to the drive unit, the first guide member having a first guide surface and a first interior surface, and the second guide member having a second guide surface and a second interior surface,

wherein the first and second guide surfaces define a guide plane, and wherein the first interior surface is juxtaposed to the second interior surface across a gap; and

a cutting blade between the first and second guide members and coupled to the drive assembly to reciprocate between the first and second guide members along a path transverse to the guide plane, the cutting blade having a first side spaced apart from the first interior surface of the first guide member by a first side spacing, a second side spaced apart from the second interior surface of the second guide member by a second side spacing, and a top surface between the first and second sides having a curvature concave with respect to the first and second guide surfaces, wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are from 0.040 to 0.055 inch to inhibit premature wear of the motor or the drive assembly and to provide even edge cuts along a fiber-cement workpiece cut by the cutting blade.

17 41. The cutting tool of claim 16 wherein the blade has a width of 0.25 inch.

18 42. The cutting tool of claim 16 wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are approximately 0.0425 to 0.045 inch.

19 43. A fiber-cement cutting tool, comprising:

a hand-held drive unit comprising a housing, a motor coupled to the housing, a switch operatively coupled to the motor to selectively activate the motor, and a drive assembly operatively coupled to the motor;

a guide assembly comprising first and second guide members attached to the drive unit, the first guide member having a first guide surface and a first interior surface, and the second guide member having a second guide surface and a second interior surface, wherein the first and second guide surfaces define a guide plane, and wherein the first interior surface is juxtaposed to the second interior surface across a gap; and

a cutting blade between the first and second guide members and coupled to the drive assembly to reciprocate between the first and second guide members along a path transverse to the guide plane, the cutting blade having a first side spaced apart from the first interior surface of the first guide member by a first side spacing, a second side spaced apart from the second interior surface of the second guide member by a second side spacing, and a

top surface between the first and second sides having a curvature concave with respect to the first and second guide surfaces, wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are from 13% to 22% of a thickness of a fiber-cement workpiece to be cut with the blade to inhibit premature wear of the motor or the drive assembly and to provide even edge cuts along the fiber-cement workpiece.

20 ~~44~~. The cutting tool of claim 19 ~~43~~ wherein the blade has a width of 0.25 inch.

21 ~~45~~. The cutting tool of claim 19 ~~43~~ wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are approximately 0.040 to 0.055 inch.

22 ~~46~~. A fiber-cement cutting tool, comprising:

a hand-held drive unit comprising a housing, a motor coupled to the housing, a switch operatively coupled to the motor to selectively activate the motor, and a drive assembly operatively coupled to the motor;

a guide assembly comprising first and second guide members attached to the drive unit, the first guide member having a first guide surface and a first interior surface, and the second guide member having a second guide surface and a second interior surface, wherein the first and second guide surfaces define a guide plane, and wherein the first interior surface is spaced apart from the second interior surface by a gap distance; and

a cutting blade between the first and second guide members and coupled to the drive assembly to reciprocate between the first and second guide members along a path transverse to the guide plane, the cutting blade having a first side spaced apart from the first interior surface of the first guide member by a first side spacing, a second side spaced apart from the second interior surface of the second guide member by a second side spacing, and a top surface between the first and second sides having a curvature concave with respect to the first and second guide surfaces, wherein the first side spacing and the second side spacing are from 16% to 22% of the gap distance to inhibit premature wear of the motor or the drive assembly and to provide even edge cuts along a fiber-cement workpiece cut by the cutting blade.